STATIONERY, IRELAND.

RETURNS to Orders of the Honourable House of Commons, dated 18 February and 3 March 1834;—*for*,

1.—RETURN of the different Descriptions of PAPER contracted for by Mr. *Church*, for the IRISH STATIONERY OFFICE, the Price of each Description contracted for, and the Name of the Contractor.

2.—COPY of a LETTER addressed to the Treasury on the 12th January 1832, by *Christopher McDonnel & Sons*, on the subject of the CONTRACTS made by the STATIONERY OFFICE for the supply of the Public Departments in *Ireland* with Paper; with the REPORT of the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, and the MINUTE of the Board of Treasury thereon.

—1.—

RETURN of the different Descriptions of PAPER contracted for, for the IRISH STATIONERY OFFICE; the PRICE of each Description contracted for; and the NAME of the CONTRACTOR.

DESCRIPTION OF PAPER.			Price per Ream.			NAME OF CONTRACTOR.
		Lbs.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	
Imperial - - -	Insides	72	4	3	10	Magnay & Brothers.
Super-royal - -	"	54	3	2	10	
Royal - - -	"	44	2	9	4	
Medium - - -	"	34	1	17	10	
Demy, laid - - -	"	24½	1	6	9	
Demy, wove - -	"	24½	1	6	8	
Large thick Post, laid -	"	22	1	7	6	
Large thick Post, wove -	"	22	1	6	10	
Thick Post, laid - -	"	19	1	2	5	
Thick Post, wove - -	"	19	1	2	5	
Foolscap, laid - -	"	16	–	16	3	
Foolscap, wove - -	"	18	1	–	8	
Second Foolscap - -	"	14	–	13	4	
Cartridge - - -	"	50	1	13	4	
Imperial Cap - -	"	48	1	8	9	
Printing Demy - -	"	21	–	15	6	Michael McDonnell.
Second Imperial - -	"	65	2	10	–	
Second Medium - -	"	34	1	5	6	
Second Demy - -	"	24	–	18	–	
Thin-laid Post - -	"	14	–	15	–	Francis Pickering.
Foolscap - - -	"	15	–	15	–	
Pott - - - -	"	12	–	12	–	
Large thin Post, laid -	"	16	1	2	–	Christ^r McDonnel & Sons.
Foolscap, laid - -	"	18	1	1	–	

Stationery Office, February 21, 1834.

J. Church, Comptroller.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

528

—2.—

Copy nf LETTER from *Christopher McDonnel & Sons* to *T. Spring Rice*, Esq. on the subject of the Contracts made by the Stationery Office for the Supply of the Public Departments in *Ireland* with Paper.

Sir,

WE had the honour of receiving a Letter last November from the Lords of the Treasury in answer to an application from us, relative to the supply of Stationery for Ireland, stating, that it was the wish of their Lordships that all due encouragement should he given to Irish industry consistently with the principle of fair competition.

In cnnsequence nf this communication, we, in common with others of the Trade in Ireland, sent in our proposals as soon as the advertisenient appeared; and with regret we have now to state, that out of 2,800 reams of superfine first class papers, nnly 25 reams were given to an Irish manufacturer; a decision which we fear will prove fatal to this hranch of manufacture in Ireland.

We mentioned then to their Lordships that the Trade was in a very sinking state; and tn prove the truth nf our then assertion, twn manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Dublin have since been obliged to stop, and their men thrown out of employment have increased the almost overwhelming number of unemployed trndesmen in this most unfortunate Country.

Tn ourselves it is a peculiar hardship, paying as we do *one-fifth* of the paper duty of *all Ireland*, (which at once must show you the difficulty we have in competing with the smuggler,) to have this source of consumption taken from us, which we have heretofore always had through Alderman King, will we fear oblige us also to throw a number out of employment.

If this decision had been adopted in consequence of nur papers not being considered sufficiently good, we should not complain; but what was the fact? The specimen sheets exhibited as samples for the tender were, with twn or three exceptions, all our manufacture, which shows their quality was approved of. With regard to the price, we assure you most solemnly, that in the hope of keeping the Trade in Ireland, nnd knowing the security of the dealings, we priced them as low as any respectable manufacturer could do with justice to himself.

For this reason wc respectfully request of you to reprcsent this to their Lordships, in order that they may cause inquiry to be made, to see that justice has been done to us, and that tbe contract has been given from Ireland in consequence nf a great difference in the prices; for a sligbt one we should not consider sufficient cause. We assure that out nf respect we bear the present Government, we have studiously concealed these facts from the public mind, fearing the dangerous effect they would have on it, and in the hope that by thus applying to you, whom we know to be a friend to the interests nf Ireland, that you will use your powerful influence, now that her manufactures are reduced to the lowest state, to save this hranch of them, which has been at the same time a source of revenue to the Crown and of employment tn the People nf this Country, where there is no alternative but employment or starvation. Waiting your reply,

We respectfully remain

Your obedient Servants,

Dublin, 9, Merchants Quay, January 12th, 1832. (signed) *Christ^r McDonnel & Sons.*

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury were pleased to refer the aforegoing Letter to the Comptroller nf the Stationery Office, on the 18th of January, and received his report thereon as follows:

Copy

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Copy of a LETTER from *J. Church*, Esq. to *Thomas Hoblyn*, Esq., &c.

SIR, Stationery Office, 20th January 1832.

I HAVE received the honour of your reference, dated the 18th instant, of a Letter from Messrs. McDonnel & Sons, Paper-makers, of Dublin, addressed to Mr. Spring Rice, referring to the Contracts recently made by this Office for the supply of the Public Departments in Ireland with paper.

As this representation is one of considerable importance, and one which will probably be followed by many others if not fully answered, I will take the liberty to detail at length the circumstances out of which it arises.

Being aware that it was the wish of the Government to afford every facility to Irish manufacturers in the supply of Stores required for the use of the Public Departments in Ireland, I confined the advertisements for tenders for contracts for the supply of Paper, Parchment, Stationery Wares, Printing and Binding exclusively to the Irish Newspapers; and in selecting samples to be exhibited of the different articles to be contracted for, I selected those, as far as it was possible to procure them, which were of Irish manufacture. Mr. McDonnel indeed admits, in the article of papers, that "the specimen sheets exhibited as samples for tenders were, with two or three exceptions, all of his own manufacture." My object in doing this was to show, not only that there could be no objection to articles of Irish manufacture, but that, as far as the principles of competition would allow, a preference would be given to them.

In pursuance of these advertisements, sealed tenders were received at this Office on the 19th of December last, and opened by me on that day; and on the following day I gave notice, by letter, to the lowest bidders, that their tenders had been accepted, and that the contract deed and bonds would be prepared for their execution in Dublin.

The result of these Tenders, as far as regards Paper, is as follows:—

NAME OF CONTRACTOR.	QUANTITY of Paper Contracted for.	AMOUNT of Contract.		
	Reams.	£.	s.	d.
Magnay & Brothers, Dripsey Mills, near Cork -	2,185	2,555	10	5
Christopher McDonnel & Sons, Dublin - -	985	664	–	–
Michael McDonnell, Dublin - - - -	850	832	5	–
Pettigrew & Oulton, Dublin - - - -	300	260	–	–
Harris, Brothers, Liverpool - - - -	535	572	18	4
	4,855	4,884	13	9

Messrs. Magnay & Brothers, the first on the list, are extensive stationers and paper-makers in London, but they are also the proprietors of paper-mills at Dripsey, near Cork. These gentlemen distinctly stated to me, previously to sending in their tender, that, in the event of their getting any portion of the contract, it was their intention to open the mills at Dripsey (which have for some time past been closed); and I have reason to know that they are preparing at this moment to manufacture at these mills, not only the paper they have contracted for, but paper to three times the amount, for the supply of the English markets, and which they would not have attempted had they not been stimulated by this contract. The second on the list are Messrs. Christopher McDonnel & Sons, of Dublin, the writers of the Letter to Mr. Rice; the third, Mr. Michael McDonnell, of Dublin; the fourth, Messrs. Pettigrew & Oulton, also of Dublin; and the fifth, Messrs. Harris & Brothers, of Liverpool. These last gentlemen I had never heard of when I opened

 their

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

their tender; but I have since understood that they had been in the habit of supplying Sir Abraham Bradley King.

Out of the whole contract for paper, therefore, consisting of 4,855 reams, and amounting to £. 4,884. 13. 9. the only part which will not be manufactured in Ireland will be 535 reams, amounting to £. 572. 18. 4.

I had been strongly solicited, before the day of opening the tenders, by some English houses, to allow papers supplied under the Irish contract, to be examined at this Office, to save them the expense and risk of sending them to Ireland, subject to the chance of their being rejected if unequal to sample; and I know, that in consequence of my refusal to do this, many have been deterred from bidding.

I considered the contract as an Irish contract, and that if English manufacturers did interfere, it should be at an expense and risk that would operate as a premium to those of Ireland.

Mr. M'Donnel appears moreover to suspect that justice may not have been done to him, and that a slight difference in price would not be a sufficient cause for the rejection of a tender. He is probably not aware, that the sealed tenders are opened at this Office in the presence of four persons, and that all the originals are afterwards deposited with the Auditors of Public Accounts, and that it would not be in my power to do otherwise than to accept the lowest tender, however slight in degree the difference of price might be.

Their Lordships will therefore see, as regards the contract for paper, that the employment of Irish labour will be increased in consequence of this contract, to a much larger amount than that of the contract itself.

It will, I have no doubt, be satisfactory to their Lordships to be acquainted with the results of the other parts of the Irish Contracts for Stationery, the whole of which, without exception, have been obtained by *residents of Dublin*.

NAME OF CONTRACTOR.	Description of Article.	AMOUNT of Contract.		
		£.	s.	d.
Pettigrew & Oulton - - - -	Small Stores -	382	18	5
Ditto - - - - - -	Parchment -	14	11	8
John Verschoyle - - - - -	- ditto -	1,018	18	4
Alexander Thom - - - - -	Printing -	650	–	–
Pettigrew & Oulton - - - - -	Binding -	1,400	–	–
	£.	3,466	8	5

Various articles, however, over and above those contracted for, will be required, the quality of which not being ascertainable from mere inspection, are purchased under special agreement, viz. Cutlery, Sealing Wax, Inkstands, Despatch Boxes and Portfolios.

The supply of all these articles I have offered to different tradesmen in Dublin, provided they will agree to furnish them of the sample quality, and at the London prices; and I have reason to hope that these conditions will be complied with. The value of these articles will amount to nearly £. 250.

I have thus accounted for an expenditure of £. 8,601. 2. 2. the whole of which, excepting £. 572. 18. 4. to Messrs. Harris, of Liverpool, will be confined to Ireland.

Their Lordships will have remarked, that my Estimate of the probable amount of Stationery for the service of Ireland for the present year, now about to be laid before

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

before Parliament, does not exceed £. 10,000; there remains, therefore, only £. 1,398. 17. 10. unaccounted for; out of this sum, Pens and Quills (for which, though inserted in the Schedule of the Tenders, there was no bidding from Ireland,) superfine Kentish Papers, for the use of the Castle and other special purposes, and any excess that may be required of other Stores beyond the quantity actually contracted for, and which excess, if it should occur, will be purchased in Ireland, and also the payment of contingent Expenses, are to be provided for.

This statement I trust will satisfy their Lordships that I have omitted no precaution that could fairly be used to secure to the manufacturers of Ireland all the advantages which could be expected from these contracts.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(signed) *J. Church*, Comptroller.

Copy of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 24th January 1832.

READ Letter from the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, dated the 20th instant, on the complaint of Christopher McDonnel & Sons, of Dublin, that the Irish Paper-makers have not the same advantages with the British in tendering for paper for the supply of Public Departments.

Write to the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, and inform him that My Lords have considered with the utmost satisfaction the arrangements he has made with respect to the Contracts for Stationery in Ireland, at once insuring an economical supply to the Departments of the Government, and giving all reasonable encouragement to the manufacturers of Ireland.

Write to Messrs. McDonnel & Sons, and inform them that the object of My Lords has been, in the case of the Contracts for Stationery in Ireland, to afford every encouragement to the manufacturers of Ireland, and to the employment of His Majesty's subjects in that part of the United Kingdom. That with this view the advertisements for contracts were inserted in the Irish Newspapers, the samples exhibited for tender were of Irish manufacture, and that so far from the existence of any objection to Irish manufacturers, they would be allowed a fair preference, as far as the principles of competition would admit. That in consequence of these arrangements, out of the whole Contract for Paper, consisting of 4,855 reams, the only part not manufactured in Ireland will be 535 reams, and that the arrangements made with respect to the opening of tenders for contracts are such as ensure perfect fairness to all parties. My Lords feel it right to add, that the Contracts for small Stores, Parchment, Printing and Binding have also been taken in Ireland on terms advantageous to the Public. These arrangements, My Lords are informed, have already contributed to promote employment among the manufacturers concerned, not only as far as these contracts are concerned, but by leading to the opening of a manufactory hitherto closed.

The Return laid before The House this day, pursuant to the Order of the 18th ultimo, has reference to the last Contract for 1833–4. The circumstances connected with that Contract are the same as that for the previous year, which is the subject of these Papers. Messrs. Magnay & Brothers were on both occasions the lowest bidders for the largest portion of the supply. It appears, however, in both years, that more Paper of *Irish* manufacture has been supplied for the use of the Public Departments in England and Ireland together, than the supply required for Ireland alone in either year amounted to.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

STATIONERY, IRELAND.

RETURN of PAPER contracted for, for the IRISH STATIONERY OFFICE; and—

LETTER on the CONTRACTS made for the Supply of the Public Departments in *Ireland*.

(*Mr. John O'Connell.*)

(*Mr. Spring Rice.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
3 *March* 1834.

79.

532

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit